

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1 (original): A paint storage apparatus comprising:
- a. a container divided into a plurality of compartments; and
 - b. a lid having a plurality of orifices, wherein when the lid is fixed on the container, the orifices are aligned over the compartments, with one of the plurality of orifices over each of the plurality of compartments.
- Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the lid are substantially cylindrical.
- Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the lid are substantially circular.
- Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the lid are substantially square.
- Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the lid are substantially angular.
- Claim 6 (original): A container comprising:
- a. a body portion having an open upper end and forming a chamber region;
 - b. one or more walls dividing the chamber region into a plurality of compartments; and
 - c. a lid having a plurality of orifices configured to align over the compartments, wherein one of the plurality of orifices is over each

of the plurality of compartments, and wherein the lid is configured to mate with the plurality of walls so as to create a positive seal.

- Claim 7 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially cylindrical.
- Claim 8 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially circular.
- Claim 9 (original): The container of claim 8, wherein a diameter of the open end is greater than a maximum diameter of the bottom of the container.
- Claim 10 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially square.
- Claim 11 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially angular.
- Claim 12 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.
- Claim 13 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the container.
- Claim 14 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the container further comprises a cap configured to detachably couple to the lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the container.
- Claim 15 (original): The container of claim 6, wherein the lid further comprises a plurality of grooves configured to cooperatively engage the lid with the body portion.
- Claim 16 (original): A divided paint storage apparatus comprising:
- a. a cup comprising:
 - i. integrally formed interior walls; and
 - ii. one or more dividers coupled to the interior walls and configured to separate the cup into a plurality of separate chambers configured to store paint; and

- b. a lid comprising:
 - i. one or more orifices configured to align with the plurality of separate chambers; and
 - ii. one or more guiding means configured to couple with the one or more dividers and to align the one or more orifices with the plurality of separate chambers.

Claim 17 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially cylindrical.

Claim 18 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially circular.

Claim 19 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 18, wherein the shape of the cup is configured such that a diameter of the top of the cup is greater than a maximum diameter of the bottom of the cup.

Claim 20 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially square.

Claim 21 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially angular.

Claim 22 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lid couples to the cup through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.

Claim 23 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the one or more guiding means couple with the one or more dividers through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.

Claim 24 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the apparatus is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.

- Claim 25 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises a polymer resin.
- Claim 26 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises polypropylene.
- Claim 27 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises a liquid impervious plastic material.
- Claim 28 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the orifices are in a tapered configuration.
- Claim 29 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the apparatus further comprises a cap configured to detachably couple to the lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the plurality of separate chambers.
- Claim 30 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 29, wherein the cap further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the cap from the apparatus.
- Claim 31 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.
- Claim 32 (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the bottom of the cup further comprises an annular ring configured to support the apparatus on a surface.
- Claim 33 (original): An annular paint cup comprising:
- a. one or more walls contained within the annular paint cup, wherein the one or more walls divide the annular paint cup and define a plurality of paint storage cavities; and

- b. a lid with a plurality of orifices comprising a planar surface with a top and a bottom, wherein the bottom of the planar surface comprises one or more depending grooves configured to cooperatively engage with the plurality of walls and align the plurality of orifices with the plurality of paint storage cavities.

Claim 34 (original): A divided paint cup comprising;

- a. a container means comprising:
 - i. a main chamber divided by a plurality of inner walls;
 - ii. a plurality of storage cavities defined by the enclosed space between the inner walls and the main chamber and configured for receiving and retaining paint;
- b. a lid comprising:
 - i. an annular base portion and an annular wall joined to the annular base portion;
 - ii. a plurality of groove means coupled to the annular base portion and configured to cooperatively engage with the plurality of inner walls; and
 - iii. a plurality of orifices configured to align with the plurality of storage cavities when the plurality of groove means are cooperatively engaged with plurality of inner walls.

Claim 35 (original): The divided paint cup of claim 34, wherein the main chamber comprises an open top and a bottom and is formed by a substantially vertical portion and two arcuate portions, wherein the arcuate portions blend into the sidewall portion.

Claim 36 (original): The divided paint cup of claim 34, wherein the lid and the container means further comprise an annular locking structure configured to frictionally engage so as to create a positive seal.

Claim 37 (original): A divided paint storage apparatus comprising;

- a. integrally formed interior walls; and

- b. one or more dividers coupled to the interior walls and configured to separate the apparatus into a plurality of separate chambers configured to store paint.

Claim 38 (original): A method of forming a divided paint cup, comprising the steps of:

- a. thermoforming plastic into one or more dividing walls with a generally parallel matrix configured into a generally cylindrical shape; and
- b. thermoforming plastic around the dividing walls and into a generally cylindrical body portion having an open upper end, a rim extending radially outwardly from the perimeter of the open end of said body portion.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of thermoforming plastic into a generally cylindrical lid having a plurality of orifices and a plurality of grooves configured to mate with the plurality of dividing walls.

Claim 40 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially cylindrical.

Claim 41 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially circular.

Claim 42 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially square.

Claim 43 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially angular.

Claim 44 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus further comprises a lid, wherein the lid comprises a plurality of orifices, and further wherein the lid is configured to couple to

the integrally formed interior walls through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.

- Claim 45 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.
- Claim 46 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises a polymer resin.
- Claim 47 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises polypropylene.
- Claim 48 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises a liquid impervious plastic material.
- Claim 49 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 44, wherein the orifices are in a tapered configuration.
- Claim 50 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 44, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus further comprises a cap configured to detachably couple to the lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the plurality of separate chambers.
- Claim 51 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 50, wherein the cap further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the cap from the apparatus.
- Claim 52 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 44, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus further comprises a cap configured to couple to the lid by a hinge.

Claim 53 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 44, wherein the lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.

Claim 54 (new): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 44, wherein the lid further comprises an indentation configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.